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**From:** OGCLibrary [OGCLibrary@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 10/11/2019 3:45:14 PM  
**To:** OGCLibrary [OGCLibrary@epa.gov]; Allnutt, David [Allnutt.David@epa.gov]; Anderson, Lea [anderson.lea@epa.gov]; Anderson, Steve [Anderson.Steve@epa.gov]; Aranda, Amber [aranda.amber@epa.gov]; Averbach, Jonathan [Averbach.Jonathan@epa.gov]; Belser, Evan [Belser.Evan@epa.gov]; Bianco, Karen [Bianco.Karen@epa.gov]; Branning, Amy [Branning.Amy@epa.gov]; Bunker, Byron [bunker.byron@epa.gov]; Chapman, Apple [Chapman.Apple@epa.gov]; Cozad, David [Cozad.David@epa.gov]; Davis, Julian [davis.julian@epa.gov]; Dickinson, David [Dickinson.David@epa.gov]; Doster, Brian [Doster.Brian@epa.gov]; Dubey, Susmita [dubey.susmita@epa.gov]; Froikin, Sara [Froikin.Sara@epa.gov]; Graham, Cheryl [Graham.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Hoffman, Howard [hoffman.howard@epa.gov]; Hogan, Stephanie [Hogan.Stephanie@epa.gov]; Igoe, Sheila [Igoe.Sheila@epa.gov]; Jordan, Scott [Jordan.Scott@epa.gov]; Kaplan, Robert [kaplan.robert@epa.gov]; Kataoka, Mark [Kataoka.Mark@epa.gov]; Klepp, Robert [Klepp.Robert@epa.gov]; Lee, Michael [lee.michaelg@epa.gov]; Lovett, Lauren [Lovett.Lauren@epa.gov]; Mackey, Cyndy [Mackey.Cyndy@epa.gov]; Manners, Mary [manners.mary@epa.gov]; Marks, Matthew [Marks.Matthew@epa.gov]; McConkey, Diane [Mcconkey.Diane@epa.gov]; Morgan, Jeanette [Morgan.Jeanette@epa.gov]; Muller, Sheldon [Muller.Sheldon@epa.gov]; Nguyen, Quoc [Nguyen.Quoc@epa.gov]; Adair, Jocelyn [Adair.Jocelyn@epa.gov]; Okoye, Winifred [Okoye.Winifred@epa.gov]; Orlin, David [Orlin.David@epa.gov]; Pastorkovich, Anne-Marie [Pastorkovich.Anne-Marie@epa.gov]; Rodman, Sonja [Rodman.Sonja@epa.gov]; Schaaf, Eric [Schaaf.Eric@epa.gov]; Senn, John [Senn.John@epa.gov]; Smith, Kristi [Smith.Kristi@epa.gov]; Snyder, Doug [Snyder.Doug@epa.gov]; Srinivasan, Gautam [Srinivasan.Gautam@epa.gov]; Stahle, Susan [Stahle.Susan@epa.gov]; Starfield, Lawrence [Starfield.Lawrence@epa.gov]; Stern, Allyn [Stern.Alyn@epa.gov]; Thrift, Mike [thrift.mike@epa.gov]; Tierney, Jan [tierney.jan@epa.gov]; Ting, Kaytrue [Ting.Kaytrue@epa.gov]; Tsirigotis, Peter [Tsirigotis.Peter@epa.gov]; Versace, Paul [Versace.Paul@epa.gov]; Werner, Jacqueline [Werner.Jacqueline@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Geoffrey [wilcox.geoffrey@epa.gov]; Williams, Melina [Williams.Melina@epa.gov]; Williamson, Timothy [Williamson.Tim@epa.gov]; Zenick, Elliott [Zenick.Elliott@epa.gov]; Blake, Wendy [Blake.Wendy@epa.gov]; Schramm, Daniel [Schramm.Daniel@epa.gov]; Vergeront, Julie [Vergeront.Julie@epa.gov]; Tozzi, Lauren [Tozzi.Lauren@epa.gov]; Pilchen, Zach [Pilchen.Zach@epa.gov]; Skinner-Thompson, Jonathan [Skinner-Thompson.Jonathan@epa.gov]; Vijayan, Abi [Vijayan.Abi@epa.gov]; Caballero, Kathryn [Caballero.Kathryn@epa.gov]; Thompson, Christopher [Thompson.Christopher@epa.gov]; Williams, Christopher [Williams.Christopher@epa.gov]; Michaels, Lauren [Michaels.Lauren@epa.gov]; Nguyen, Duch [Nguyen.Duch@epa.gov]; Jordan, Deborah [Jordan.Deborah@epa.gov]; Charlton, Tom [Charlton.Tom@epa.gov]; Kulschinsky, Edward [Kulschinsky.Edward@epa.gov]; Portmess, Jessica [Portmess.Jessica@epa.gov]; Kryman, Matthew [Kryman.Matthew@epa.gov]; Greenglass, Nora [Greenglass.Nora@epa.gov]; Spina, Providence [Spina.Providence@epa.gov]; Palmer, Karen [Palmer.Karen@epa.gov]; Seidman, Emily [seidman.emily@epa.gov]; Conrad, Daniel [conrad.daniel@epa.gov]; OGC NFO FEAT [OGC\_NFO\_FEAT@epa.gov]; Hindin, David [Hindin.David@epa.gov]; Sullivan, Tim [Sullivan.Tim@epa.gov]; Carrillo, Andrea [Carrillo.Andrea@epa.gov]; Krallman, John [krallman.john@epa.gov]; Mastro, Donna [Mastro.Donna@epa.gov]; Kane, Eleanor [kane.eleanor@epa.gov]; Ng, Brian [Ng.Brian@epa.gov]; Li, Ryland (Shengzhi) [Li.Ryland@epa.gov]; Kodish, Jeff [Kodish.Jeff@epa.gov]; Dugan, Brett [Dugan.Brett@epa.gov]; Traylor, Patrick [traylor.patrick@epa.gov]; Buchsbaum, Seth [buchsbaum.seth@epa.gov]; Iddings, Brianna [Iddings.Brianna@epa.gov]; Knapp, Kristien [Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov]; Nelson, Karen [nelson.karen@epa.gov]; Bodine, Susan [bodine.susan@epa.gov]; Shepherdson, Melanie [Shepherdson.Melanie@epa.gov]; Stachowiak, Robert [Stachowiak.Robert@epa.gov]; Voyles, Travis [Voyles.Travis@epa.gov]; Meisenbach, Caitlin [Meisenbach.Caitlin@epa.gov]; Oeler, Lawrence [Oeler.Lawrence@epa.gov]; Steinberg, Kayla [steinberg.kayla@epa.gov]; Payne, James [payne.james@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Air & Radiation Law News for October 11, 2019



# Air & Radiation Law News for October 11, 2019

**Bloomberg  
Environment**

**Environment & Energy**

## Government Must Publish Obama Era Energy Conservation Rules

By Porter Wells and Ellen M. Gilmer

The Energy Department must publish four energy conservation standards it has kept on the back burner since 2016, the Ninth Circuit ruled.

## Climate Shifts Could Doom Two-Thirds of North American Birds (1)

By Keshia Clukey

Two-thirds of North American birds could disappear within decades, and some, like the common loon and the American robin, would lose much of their breeding range as a result of climate change, according to a National Audubon Society study.

## Senate Democrats Vow Vote to Repeal Trump Power Rule Rollback

By Dean Scott

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) vowed Oct. 10 that Democrats would force a Senate floor vote to repeal the Trump administration's efforts to weaken carbon pollution limits for U.S. power plants.

## IMF Urges Action on Climate Crisis as Paris Accord Falls Short

By Katia Dmitrieva

The International Monetary Fund issued its most emphatic statement on climate change yet, calling it a crisis that requires immediate action from all levels of government.

## Sterigenics Must Prove New Ethylene Oxide Controls in Georgia

By Chris Marr

Medical supply sterilizer Sterigenics U.S. LLC will have to prove new equipment at its Georgia facility is effective at reducing ethylene oxide emissions before state regulators will renew its air permit.

## California Blames U.S. EPA for Stalled Plans to Curb Air Pollution (1)

By Ryan Beene

California's top clean-air official fired back at Trump administration charges that the state hasn't done enough to fight pollution within its borders, saying the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should "do its job."

## Washington Refineries Face New Greenhouse Gas Regulation

By Paul Shukovsky

Five refineries in western Washington state could face regulation under a regional low-carbon fuel standard program that a metropolitan Seattle air pollution agency would impose.

**INSIDEEPA.COM**

an online news service from the publishers of Inside EPA

October 11, 2019

## California-EPA Spat Over Vehicle GHG Rules Explodes Into Major Fight

Tensions between California and the Trump administration over auto greenhouse gas rules that simmered for more than a year have exploded into an all-out legal and policy fight, with the two sides ramping up their attacks including EPA's threats to revoke the state's delegated water law authorities and yank federal highway funds.

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## Former CASAC Panelists Say Fast NAAQS Review 'Puts Cart Before Horse'

Former members of EPA's disbanded Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) expert particulate matter panel are warning the agency that its accelerated process for reviewing ambient air limits "puts the cart before the horse" by requiring staff to suggest policy decisions on the standards before resolving major scientific questions.

## Venue, Other Fights Could Set Pace Of California Vehicle Program Battle

The speed of litigation over the Trump administration's revocation of California's vehicle greenhouse gas authority will depend on several factors, including disputes over the proper court venue for the case, potential government requests to expedite proceedings and the unknown effect of related auto GHG litigation, experts say.

### **EPA sends final NSR 'adjacency' guidance for OMB review**

EPA's final guidance will likely enable industry sources to more easily avoid tougher Clean Air Act permit conditions, based on the details of a 2018 draft version of the document.

### **California fights EPA's SIP threat by putting onus on agency**

California Air Resources Board Chairwoman Mary Nichols charges EPA has failed to process numerous state implementation plans, or approve vital new federal air rules for mobile sources.

### **Grid Integration, Reform Seen As Vital For Decarbonized U.S. Economy**

SEATTLE -- Energy experts say widespread adoption of electric vehicles combined with the drive to electrify other industries will require major reforms to the electric grid as operators would need to smoothly integrate renewables, energy efficiency, and other low-carbon measures to keep up with a predicted doubling of demand.

[Read all the latest EPA news, analysis and documents →](#)



## **Scientists gather in 'unprecedented' rebuke to EPA**

[Sean Reilly](#), E&E News reporter Published: Thursday, October 10, 2019



Chris Frey, left, chairing a public meeting today of the Independent Particulate Matter Review Panel at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Va.. Francis Chung/E&E News

What was billed as an extraordinary event launched this morning in the most mundane of surroundings: a neutral-toned conference room that featured scientific researchers seated around a makeshift table.

"We are here to talk about air quality," Chris Frey, chairman of the Independent Particulate Matter Review Panel, said at the outset of a two-day meeting that is effectively a rebuke to EPA's handling of a high-stakes review of the standards for a common, but dangerous, pollutant.

Its 20 members, almost all of them from academia, had previously served on a comparable advisory panel for EPA, only to be summarily fired last fall by the agency's then-acting administrator, Andrew Wheeler. They have now regrouped to take on the same role, albeit unofficially, with the help of the Union of Concerned Scientists, a research and advocacy group critical of the Trump administration's approach to science ([Greenwire](#), Sept. 26).

"Today is unprecedented," Gretchen Goldman, research head for the group's Center for Science and Democracy, said in an opening statement. "Nothing like this has been done before. Nothing like this has ever been necessary."

During the two-day meeting, which is taking place in a hotel just outside Washington, D.C., panel members will provide detailed feedback on a draft EPA assessment that found the existing standards for fine particulates may be too weak to prevent a "substantial number" of premature deaths. The panel's conclusions will then be fashioned into a report for EPA.

It is intended to serve as a counterweight to the official process that members view as tilted against a balanced consideration of the evidence.

"We certainly hope to get the best expert opinion of the best experts on the science and policy issues ... to better inform the agency," Frey, a North Carolina State University environmental engineering professor, said in an interview beforehand.

Asked whether members have reached any conclusion as to whether changes to the existing limits are warranted, he replied: "We'll have a better idea at the end of tomorrow."

Fine particulates, technically known as PM2.5 because they are no more 2.5 microns in diameter, are linked to an array of heart and lung problems. Any tightening of the standards could result in added compliance costs for coal-fired power plants, refineries and other industrial operations.

This week's meeting is public; the proceedings are being livestreamed on YouTube. Procedurally, it's designed to parallel the mechanics used by EPA, including conflicts-of-interest reviews for the 20 members by a former agency staffer, with a retired agency attorney on hand today to offer legal counsel.

"Welcome to our alternate universe," George Allen, another member, said in a separate interview.



Gretchen Goldman, research director at the Union of Concerned Scientists, speaking today at the Independent Particulate Matter Review Panel meeting. Francis Chung/E&E News

An EPA spokeswoman previously said the agency welcomes public feedback. Allen, who is chief scientist for a Boston-based air quality consortium, saw no chance that the agency will consider the panel's findings but said they could be a factor in litigation should an environmental group challenge the ultimate results of the official review.

As the gathering got underway, Frey also suggested it could serve as a forum to push back against broader changes the administration has made to the process for reviewing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter and five other pollutants.

Under the Clean Air Act, the agency is supposed to conduct those reviews every five years. In practice, the agency has rarely met that deadline.

In an abruptly announced May 2018 overhaul, however, then-EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt ordered completion of the review of the particulate matter standards by the end of 2020 — roughly two years ahead of the original schedule.

By that point, Pruitt had already imposed a new membership policy for EPA advisory panels that has since helped prompt a complete turnover on the seven-member Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC). The group is statutorily charged with providing outside advice to EPA during the reviews.

In a tradition that dated back decades, the agency had also used adjunct advisory panels to furnish additional expertise for those assessments. But EPA dissolved the particulate matter review panel last fall in what Wheeler later described as a streamlining move.

Wheeler, who has since won Senate confirmation to lead the agency, instead opted to create a pool of a dozen consultants that can advise the CASAC only in writing. Almost half the pool's members were nominated or endorsed by industry or agricultural trade groups, according to records obtained by E&E News this week under the Freedom of Information Act.

Members of the reconstituted panel are serving without pay, although the Union of Concerned Scientists is covering the travel expenses of those who are attending this week's meeting in person. The meeting comes a year after Wheeler announced the disbanding of the original EPA panel ([Greenwire](#), Oct. 12, 2018).

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## Calif. air regulator fires back at Wheeler



Mary Nichols, chair of the California Air Resources Board, penned a letter blasting EPA's recent moves regarding the Golden State. @MaryNicholsCA/Twitter

California's top air regulator accused EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler of twisting facts for political purposes in a letter sent yesterday.

The letter and two others released today — one from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and another from 600 former EPA employees — take aim at the agency's recent actions regarding the Golden State.

Mary Nichols, chairwoman of the California Air Resources Board, wrote in her sharply worded letter to Wheeler that the EPA chief had made "many inaccuracies and misleading statements" about California's air quality.

"CARB was established years before U.S. EPA came into existence," she wrote.

"California has been doing its part to protect air quality," she added. "Sadly, U.S. EPA has not done its part."

Nichols was responding to Wheeler's Sept. 24 letter to CARB, in which he threatened to revoke the state's highway funds over its alleged failure to comply with the Clean Air Act (Greenwire, Sept. 24).

In particular, Wheeler wrote that California had failed to submit dozens of state implementation plans under the Clean Air Act outlining its compliance with federal ambient air quality standards.

The EPA chief added that the state had "failed to carry out its most basic tasks" under the bedrock environmental law and had "the worst air quality in the United States."

In her response, Nichols pointed out that most of the state's SIP backlog actually consists of SIPs awaiting action by EPA.

"The SIP backlog discussed in your letter consists of SIPs awaiting action by Regional U.S. EPA staff, and the multi-year delays in acting on California's SIPs are the result of staff shortages, competing administrative priorities, and a lack of clear guidelines emanating from headquarters bureaucracy," she wrote.

Nichols also took issue with Wheeler's claim that California had 82 areas out of compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

If Wheeler had done his math correctly, she wrote, he would have arrived at 20 areas.

"Your letter incorrectly refers to 82 nonattainment areas in the state, apparently counting a single area repeatedly if it is not in attainment for multiple increasingly stringent standards and pollutants," Nichols wrote.

For example, the greater Los Angeles area was counted as in nonattainment for ozone four times and for particulate matter twice, she wrote. Two tribal areas were also counted six times, even though they fall under the jurisdiction of EPA rather than CARB.

"In fact, California has 20 nonattainment areas in total for ozone and fine particulate matter," Nichols wrote. "We still have much work to do, but there is no point in making the task look harder than it already is."

This is not the first time Nichols and Wheeler have clashed in dramatic fashion.

In June, Wheeler accused the air regulator of negotiating in bad faith over the rollback of Obama-era clean car rules ([\*Greenwire\*](#), June 20).

Nichols fired back at those allegations in impassioned testimony before the House Energy and Commerce Committee ([\*E&E Daily\*](#), June 21).

Asked for comment on the letter, EPA spokesman Michael Abboud said in an email: "California has the worst air quality in the nation along with other serious environmental problems. California's total portion of the SIP backlog is more than 127 with many dating back decades. Most of these SIPs are inactive and appear to have fundamental issues related to approvability."

He added, "The Trump Administration, unlike the previous administration, will act to protect public health and the environment for all Americans. When President Trump took office, EPA inherited 700 SIPs from the previous administration, we've taken action on over 400. ... EPA will continue to work diligently with the States to ensure they have approvable SIPs."

## Former EPA employees weigh in

In a separate but related development, nearly 600 former EPA employees today asked House lawmakers to investigate the Trump EPA's recent crackdowns on California.

In a [letter](#) to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee that was organized by the Environmental Integrity Project, the former employees asked for a hearing and probe into EPA's recent enforcement threats against the Golden State.

"We write as former employees of the Environmental Protection Agency to respectfully request that your Committee investigate whether EPA Administrator Wheeler's recent actions in California were intended as retaliation for the state's failure to support President Trump's political agenda," they wrote.

"EPA's credibility depends on its commitment to use its authority to protect public health and our environment in an objective, even-handed manner, rather than as a blunt instrument of political power," they added. "While that principle has served the public well under both Republican and Democratic Presidents, it is in serious trouble today."

The former employees also noted that at least six other states — Ohio, New York, Iowa, Missouri, Texas and Indiana — have had more major pollution sources in noncompliance with environmental laws over the last three years than California.

The Trump EPA has indeed taken a slew of recent steps to sanction California or curtail its authority.

In addition to threatening the state's highway funds, Wheeler last month outlined alleged deficiencies in San Francisco's enforcement of the Clean Water Act and State Drinking Water Act ([\*Greenwire\*](#), Sept. 26).

EPA and the Department of Transportation have also proposed preempting California from setting tougher vehicle emissions standards than the federal government ([\*Greenwire\*](#), Sept. 18).

Abboud, the EPA spokesman, also pushed back on the letter from former employees.

"Highlighting that California has the worst air quality in the nation along with other serious environmental problems is not a political issue," Abboud said in an email.



"The Trump Administration, unlike the previous administration, will act to protect public health and the environment for all Americans," he said.

## Pelosi joins flurry of letters

Also today, Pelosi asked EPA's internal watchdog to probe Wheeler's San Francisco threat.

In a letter to acting EPA Inspector General Charles Sheehan, Pelosi requested "an investigation into whether our nation's water quality laws are being properly enforced and if there has been irregular interference by administration officials to single out the city and county of San Francisco and the state of California."

Her letter followed a similar missive from California Democratic Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris (Greenwire, Oct. 4).

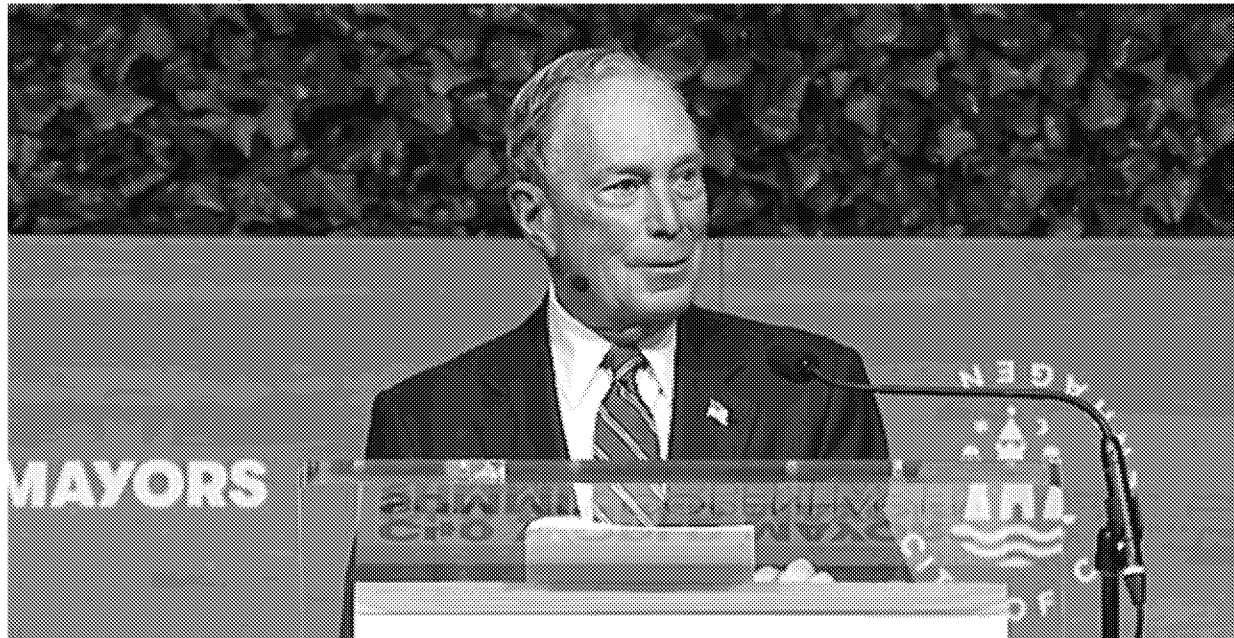
*Reporter Timothy Cama contributed.*

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## Bloomberg, mayors offer emissions recommendations

Nick Sobczyk, E&E News reporter

Published: Thursday, October 10, 2019



Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg speaking at the C40 World Mayors Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark. Bloomberg/YouTube

Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and eight current American mayors today unveiled a climate "playbook" aimed at getting cities to meet their commitments under the Paris climate agreement.

The playbook, announced at the C40 World Mayors Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, amounts to a list of policy recommendations, broadly focused on reducing emissions from buildings via energy efficiency and cutting down the number of fossil fuel-powered vehicles on the road.

It's a project of the Bloomberg Philanthropies American Cities Climate Challenge and roughly two dozen other sponsors, including the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The groups say that if the 100 largest American cities followed the playbook, they would reduce emissions 28.5% by 2025, narrowly exceeding their portion of the United States' goals under the Paris Agreement.

"Cities are vital leaders in the global climate fight — and we're giving them the tools to make a difference," Bloomberg said in a statement.

Cities and states have become the epicenter of U.S. action on climate change, with a paralyzed Congress and a president who rejects the scientific consensus that greenhouse gas emissions are warming the planet.

Since President Trump announced in 2017 that the country would leave Paris, mayors in more than 400 cities around the country have **pledged** to uphold the agreement.

Bloomberg's philanthropic organization and its partners have dumped \$70 million into the American Cities Climate Challenge, which is providing resources to 25 cities around the country to meet their climate goals.

The playbook's recommendations on the building side include enforcing energy efficiency rules, encouraging efficiency upgrades and requiring new structures to be ready for rooftop solar. Among the first on the list is the most obvious: meeting municipal energy demand with renewable energy.

For transportation, the playbook suggests congestion pricing, such as the system that's been in place in London for nearly two decades; incentives for electric vehicles; and electrified bus fleets.

Bloomberg was joined onstage for the announcement in Copenhagen by the mayors of Austin, Texas; Boston; Honolulu; Los Angeles; Philadelphia; Portland, Ore.; San Antonio; and Seattle.

"The fact is climate change is a series of solvable problems, and this playbook can help solutions spread around the world," Bloomberg said.

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## 'We're in the midst of a bird emergency'

Michael Doyle, E&E News reporter Published: Thursday, October 10, 2019



Royal terns are among the North American birds threatened by climate impacts such as sea-level rise, according to a new report from the National Audubon Society. Mike Baird/Flickr

Climate change puts at risk two-thirds of North American bird species, according to a sweeping new National Audubon Society **study** released today.

The examination of 604 species found that birds inhabiting the Arctic, Western forest and boreal forest regions are most vulnerable to a warming planet, but researchers warn that climate-related threats spread widely to encompass 389 North American species.

"We're in the midst of a bird emergency," Audubon President and CEO David Yarnold said in a webcast briefing, while adding that "the good news is that actions matter."

In particular, Yarnold said the bird species loss could be ameliorated if the average global temperature increase can be limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius instead of the 3 C that's projected to occur this century at present rates of emissions.

Yarnold cited "significant solar energy reforms" in conservative states like South Carolina and Arkansas and the adoption of "clean energy" programs in liberal Washington state as reasons for optimism about potential bipartisan problem-solving.

The new study is the latest to examine how climate change will affect bird species, and, to some extent, it echoes the red flag warnings raised by previous research ([\*Greenwire\*](#), July 10).

The "Survival by Degrees" report also includes some fresh data and innovative elements.

Audubon officials say the study examined 140 million bird records, including observational data from bird-watchers and field biologists from across the country. It is accompanied by [online tools](#), such as a way to check climate threats by ZIP code.

"We're talking about entire species' ranges being lost," Audubon Senior Climate Scientist Brooke Bateman told reporters, adding that "climate change is not just a future problem, it's happening now."

Climate change hits bird species across multiple fronts, including sea-level rise, urban and cropland expansion, and extreme weather events such as extended droughts, heavy rains and explosive wildland fires. Individual risks proliferate as temperatures rise.

"Extreme spring heat is the most ubiquitous threat," the study notes.

The study cites, for instance, the beleaguered wood thrush.

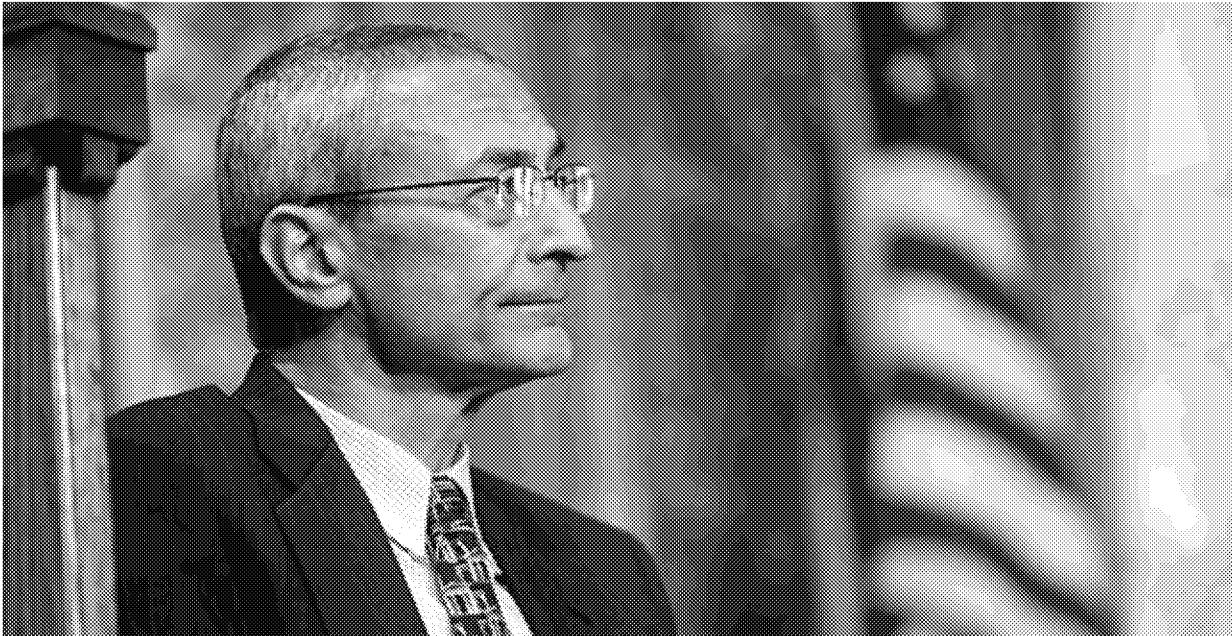
The bird breeds primarily in the deciduous forests of the eastern United States and southeastern Canada. Under a 3 C warming scenario, Audubon researchers found the wood thrush could potentially lose 57% of its current range.

"Furthermore, the wood thrush may no longer breed in Florida, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Dakota, or Texas, where projected climate and habitat are no longer similar to where the wood thrush is found today," the study states.

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## CAP draws up a 100% clean energy road map

[Nick Sobczyk](#), E&E News reporter



Former Obama aide John Podesta, who founded the Center for American Progress, co-authored a new report on addressing climate change. Center for American Progress

The Center For American Progress today offered a road map to get to 100% clean energy, with a lengthy report highlighting state and local efforts to address climate change and detailing potential federal policies across economic sectors.

Altogether, the **report** — whose authors include former Obama aides John Podesta and Christy Goldfuss — lays out a path to reduce emissions at least 43% under 2005 levels by 2030 and get to net-zero emissions by 2050.

That's roughly in line with the minimum that the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says will be necessary to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius over preindustrial levels.

The left-leaning think tank has clout among establishment Democrats, and the report provides a potential policy outline for the party, which is widely expected to attempt major climate legislation if they win the White House in 2020.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), for instance, last month vowed to put a "big, bold" climate bill on the floor if Democrats win back the Senate and he becomes the majority leader ([E&E News PM](#), Sept. 27).

CAP's recommendations for the power sector start with a price on carbon, though the authors of the report also acknowledge that it would have to be high enough to avoid locking in long-term natural gas infrastructure.

"Carbon pricing can still be effective as a complementary policy because it can encompass the entire economy — spurring conservation, efficiency, fuel switching, and innovation everywhere and all at once, beyond the scope of targeted sectoral policies," the report says.

Other recommendations for the electricity sector include extending tax credits for renewable energy, a national clean energy standard that mandates 100% carbon-free emissions by 2050 and emissions controls for existing fossil fuel-fired power plants, such as carbon capture and storage.

For the transportation sector, currently the largest source of U.S. emissions, the report suggests several options already on the policy table in Congress, such as expanding the electric vehicle tax credit and funding EV charging infrastructure. It also recommends an ambitious zero-emissions vehicle standard.

In other sectors, CAP's policy ideas include implementing a national building energy efficiency mandate, following through on the widely supported phase down of hydrofluorocarbons in air conditioning and refrigeration, and financing international efforts such as the Green Climate Fund.

"If the next administration and Congress can repair the damage by the Trump administration and make climate change a top priority, success in getting the United States and the world on the right pathway is within reach," the report says.

"This will mean learning from state and local successes, building strong coalitions, and putting the needs of workers and historically disadvantaged communities at the center of the process," it says.

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# CLIMATEWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**CLIMATEWIRE — Fri., October 11, 2019**

 [READ FULL EDITION](#)

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## 1. CLIMATE IMPACTS:

### **U.S. suffers 147 big blackouts each year. That's rising**

Millions of people lose electrical service each year because of weather-related disruptions like the ongoing outages in California. That trend will worsen as climate change causes increasingly severe damage to systems that generate and distribute power across the nation, experts say.

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## TOP STORIES

### 2. ALASKA:

#### **Permafrost tunnels hold bones, ancient grass and an angel**

### 3. SPECIES:

#### **'Climate change is happening to birds now'**

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## ARCTIC NOTEBOOK

### 4. ON LOCATION:

#### **Here's what we're reading in the Arctic**

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## ENERGY TRANSITIONS

### 5. WIND:

#### **U.S. could get half its power from turbines, with advances**

### 6. GRID:

#### **Californians learn that solar panels don't work in blackouts**

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## SCIENCE

7. ANTARCTICA:

**Ice sheets eroded by 'upside-down rivers'**

CLIMATE IMPACTS

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8. HURRICANES:

**A year after Michael, Fla. community still in crisis**

9. FEMA:

**Agency denies Dorian individual assistance in N.C. counties**

INTERNATIONAL

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10. ADVOCACY:

**Activist climbs on British plane; others stop traffic in NYC**

# ENERGYWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**ENERGYWIRE — Fri., October 11, 2019**



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1. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

**La. kills net metering. Will other states roll back solar?**

Louisiana's multiyear brawl over rooftop solar policy finally has a winner — regulated utilities, much to the dismay of renewable energy advocates in the United States.

TOP STORIES

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2. DOE:

**Perry and the impeachment inquiry: What to know**

3. CALIFORNIA:

**Record PG&E power outages spark anger, calls for change**

4. WHITE HOUSE:

**Trump axes smart grid panel created by Obama**

ENERGY POLICY

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5. OIL AND GAS:

**Colo. cracks down on pipelines linked to deadly blast**

TECHNOLOGY

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6. ELECTRIC VEHICLES:

**Carmakers not monitoring cobalt labor abuses with EVs – study**

7. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

**U.S. could get 50% of its power from wind, with advances**

LAW

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8. UTILITIES:

**Exelon hit with 2nd subpoena over Ill. lobbying**

OIL AND GAS

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9. OFFSHORE DRILLING:

**Eni chief: No work off Cyprus if Turkish warships appear**

10. NATURAL GAS:

**50 Texas A&M professors decry emissions**

ELECTRICITY

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11. ELECTRIC VEHICLES:

**Tesla advises customers hit by Calif. blackout to charge up**

12. ENERGY POLICY:

**Nuclear, uranium mining industries hope for Trump bailout**

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